

DK-US040366

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : **Attn: Mail Stop AF**  
 :  
 Tadashi SAO et al. : Patent Art Unit: 3744  
 :  
 Serial No. 10/580,909 : Examiner: Mohammad M. Ali  
 :  
 Filed: May 30, 2006 : **Confirmation No. 6843**  
 :  
 For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND AN AIR :  
 CONDITIONER PROVIDED THEREWITH :

THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application:

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS			SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL 15	- 20 =	0	x 26 =	\$	x 52 =	\$
INDEP 2	- 3 =	0	x 110 =	\$	x 220 =	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> 1ST PRESENTATION OF MULT. DEP. CLAIM			+ 195 =	\$	+ 390 =	\$
			TOTAL	\$	TOTAL	\$

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.☒ Any additional excess claim fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.☒ Any additional patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.Dated: January 13, 2009

/Patrick A. Hilsmier/  
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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the October 22, 2008 Office Action, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1-15 are pending, with claims 1 and 15 being the only independent claims.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.